



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 29, 2017

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2017 ETC Annual Report of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 442086**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Company"), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹ Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is also being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Company's outage reporting as required by Section 54.313.³

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313.



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June 29, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2017 ETC Annual Report of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 442086
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").³
2. Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must report outage information which is contained in an attachment to the 2017 ETC Annual Report.
3. The information contained in the attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's outages provided at FCC Form 481 Line 200 attachment, Service Outage Reporting. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.
4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the outage data contained in the Line 200 attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information pertains to the network and operations of a telecommunications company that has competitors that could benefit if they were able to have access to this information.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

Echelon Building II, Suite 200
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608


547 South Oakview Lane
Bountiful, UT 84010
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the subject attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. Outage information is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.
6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the outage attachment under seal. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.
7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. The Commission has previously concluded that there is a presumptive likelihood of substantial competitive harm from disclosure of outage information.⁴ The Commission also determined the disclosure of outage reporting information to the public could present an unacceptable risk of more effective terrorist activity and could therefore result in potential harm to the public and the national defense.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's outage data provided at FCC Form 481 Line 200 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

⁴ See *In the Matter of New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications*, ET Docket No. 04-35, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 04-188, rel. Aug. 19, 2004, para. 45.

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form****REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hcto.coop

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

13

442086tx330.pdf

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	--

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@htcc.coop
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	Offered only fixed voice 0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	Offered only fixed broadband 0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@htc.coop
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
442086tx510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form	REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	442086tx610.pdf

Page 8

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
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<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

[illegible]

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

[illegible]

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	442086
<015> Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020> Program Year	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@htcc.coop

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@htcc.coop

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers Lifeline Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
Yes - Attach Certification			
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		442086tx3010.pdf
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:			
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	442086tx3026.pdf

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(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

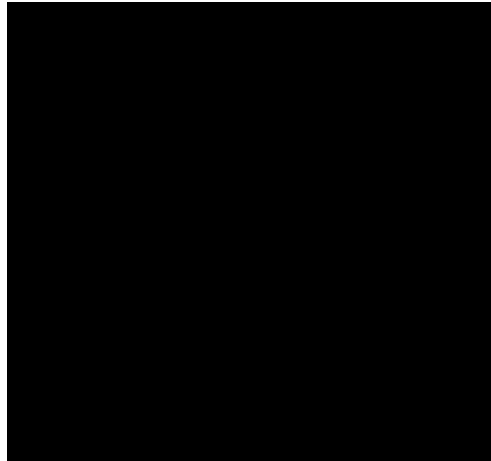
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends



(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	---

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@htcc.coop

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
--	--	--

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
---	--	--

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
---	--	--

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	442086
<015> Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020> Program Year	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	442086
<015> Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020> Program Year	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>JSI</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	<u>JSI</u>
Name of Reporting Carrier:	<u>HILL COUNTRY CO-OP</u>
Signature of Authorized Officer:	<u>CERTIFIED ONLINE</u> Date: <u>06/28/2017</u>
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	<u>Alan Link</u>
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	<u>8303675333 ext.</u>
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	<u>442086</u> Filing Due Date for this form: <u>07/03/2017</u>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	<u>HILL COUNTRY CO-OP</u>
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	<u>JSI</u>
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	<u>CERTIFIED ONLINE</u> Date: <u>06/28/2017</u>
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	<u>Diane Longenecker</u>
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	<u>Director -Regulatory Affairs</u>
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	<u>5123380473 ext.535</u>
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	<u>442086</u> Filing Due Date for this form: <u>07/03/2017</u>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

Yes

<220>

<a>

<b1>

<b2>

<b3>

<b4>

<c1>

<c2>

<d>

<e>

<f>

<g>

<h>

[illegible]

UNFULFILLED BROADBAND REQUESTS -LINE 330

Customer #	Location	Contact Type	Start Date	Description	Detail on Attempt to Fill
Customer 1	669	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	2/1/26	Customer requested higher speeds than her 1M.	Loop length is over 19,139 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 2	995	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	2/9/16	Customer is currently on 6M and is requesting 25M.	Loop length is 12,104 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 3	232	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	3/14/16	Customer requesting higher than 6M.	Loop length is 13,418 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 4	562	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	3/21/16	Customer requested higher speeds than his current 6M.	Loop length is 10,995 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 5	232	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	4/28/16	Customer requested higher speeds than his current 6M.	Loop length is 10,689 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 6	640	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	5/10/16	Customer requested broadband. Not available.	Loop length is 32,111 feet. No plans to upgrade area. Request unreasonable at this time.

Customer #	Location	Contact Type	Start Date	Description	Detail on Attempt to Fill
Customer 7	238	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	5/13/16	Customer would like higher speeds than current 3M.	Loop length is 17,140 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 8	429	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	6/15/16	Customer requested broadband. Not available.	Loop length is 28,455 feet. No plans to upgrade area. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 9	324	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	6/8/16	Customer would like higher speed than current 6M.	Loop length is 15,876 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 10	669	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	6/8/16	Customer would like higher than current 1M.	Loop length is 21,111 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 11	995	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	6/20/16	Customer would like higher speeds than current 6M.	Loop length is 14,179 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.
Customer 12	562	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	7/29/16	Customer interested in getting broadband. Only 1M available at location. He needs higher speed.	Loop length is 19,400 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.

Customer #	Location	Contact Type	Start Date	Description	Detail on Attempt to Fill
Customer 13	640	UNFULFILLED BROADBAND	8/1/16	Customer requesting higher than current 6M broadband service.	Loop length is 17,275 feet. Informed customer of network/equipment limitations. Request unreasonable at this time.

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

Response to Line 510 - Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

Compliance – Voice and Broadband

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Cooperative”) hereby certifies that its voice service complies with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules under the Texas Administrative Code, Title 16, Part II, as established by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff which discloses rates, terms and conditions of service to customers pursuant to Subchapter J requirements in Sections 26.201-26.230; (2) adherence to state consumer protection

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

requirements governing telephone providers as identified in Subchapter B, in Sections 26.21-26.37; and (3) service quality standards requirements as identified in Subchapter C, Sections 26.51-26.57. In addition, the Cooperative complies with numerous federal consumer protection standards including, but not limited to: (1) Truth-in-Billing Rules outlined in 47 CFR § 64.2401; and (2) compliance with Federal CPNI rules, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

For its broadband service, Cooperative hereby certifies that while there are no applicable state broadband service quality standards and consumer protection rules yet established under the Texas Administrative Code by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Cooperative discloses rates, terms and conditions on its public web site and the Cooperative complies with applicable federal and state customer protection standards generally applicable to all businesses operating in Texas. In addition, the Cooperative adheres to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the *2015 Open Internet Order*, as it applies to the Company.

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

**Response to Line 610 - Ability to Function in Emergency Situations
for Voice and Broadband**

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Cooperative”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)¹ and the Texas Administrative Code. The Cooperative’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Cooperative can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations also allows the Cooperative to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, the Cooperative is able to function under emergency operations in accordance with Public Utility Commission of Texas Substantive Rules §26.51 *Reliability of Operations of Telecommunications Providers* and §26.52 *Emergency Operations* which include obligations for continuity of service and emergency operations planning and service provision capability for dominant carriers. Any central office not equipped with permanently installed standby generators contains as a minimum four hours of battery reserve without voltage falling below the level required for proper operation of all equipment. In addition, all central offices without installed

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

emergency power facilities have a mobile power unit available which can be delivered and connected on short notice.

The Cooperative's standby generators and battery back-up equipment support both voice and broadband network equipment in the event of an emergency situation.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 442086

<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
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<020> Program Year	2018
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop
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1/1/2017

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext..
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

<711>	<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}
	TX	All	69.95	0.0	69.95	6.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	75.0	0.0	75.0	10.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	79.95	0.0	79.95	10.0	1.2	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	99.95	0.0	99.95	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	99.95	0.0	99.95	15.0	1.2	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	119.95	0.0	119.95	25.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	139.95	0.0	139.95	35.0	4.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	159.95	0.0	159.95	50.0	10.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	199.95	0.0	199.95	100.0	10.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All	42.25	0.0	42.25	6.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	78.95	0.0	78.95	6.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	77.45	0.0	77.45	6.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	58.95	0.0	58.95	6.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	57.45	0.0	57.45	6.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	88.95	0.0	88.95	10.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	87.45	0.0	87.45	10.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	68.95	0.0	68.95	10.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	67.45	0.0	67.45	10.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	98.95	0.0	98.95	25.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	97.45	0.0	97.45	25.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	78.95	0.0	78.95	25.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

<711>	<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}
	TX	Center Point	77.45	0.0	77.45	25.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	108.95	0.0	108.95	35.0	4.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	107.45	0.0	107.45	35.0	4.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	88.95	0.0	88.95	35.0	4.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	87.45	0.0	87.45	35.0	4.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	128.95	0.0	128.95	50.0	5.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	127.45	0.0	127.45	50.0	5.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	108.95	0.0	108.95	50.0	5.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	107.45	0.0	107.45	50.0	5.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	108.95	0.0	108.95	20.0	10.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	107.45	0.0	107.45	20.0	10.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	78.95	0.0	78.95	20.0	10.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	77.45	0.0	77.45	20.0	10.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	118.95	0.0	118.95	50.0	50.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	117.45	0.0	117.45	50.0	50.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	88.95	0.0	88.95	50.0	50.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	87.45	0.0	87.45	50.0	50.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	138.95	0.0	138.95	100.0	100.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	137.45	0.0	137.45	100.0	100.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	All except Center Point	108.95	0.0	108.95	100.0	100.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance
	TX	Center Point	107.45	0.0	107.45	100.0	100.0	999999.0	Other, No usage allowance

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442086
<015>	Study Area Name	HILL COUNTRY CO-OP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Alan Link
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8303675333 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	alink@hctc.coop

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

[illegible]

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

Rates, Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service

(Response to Form 481, Line 1210)

Local exchange service rates and charges as specified below are for basic local exchange service (R-1) including mandatory Extended Area Service and mandatory Expanded Local Calling Service and a basic bundle that includes basic local service, call waiting, caller ID, and call forwarding busy and no answer. Both rates include charges for facilities. The rates for other ancillary services not specifically shown below are presented in Hill Country Telephone Cooperative's tariff(s) on file with the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Unless otherwise specified, the rates and charges quoted below are for a period of one month, payable in advance and provide unlimited flat rate calling within the local exchange calling scope.

Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rates are provided in Line 700 included herein this ETC Annual Report. The residential local service rates listed in Line 700 do not include all mandatory taxes, fees and surcharges, including, but not limited to, state and local taxes, 9-1-1 fees and municipal franchise fees. Qualified Lifeline customers are eligible for Lifeline credits or discounts as outlined in the attached Lifeline tariff.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. STATE LIFELINE PROGRAM

The State Lifeline Program ("State Lifeline") is a retail local service offering designed to make telephone service available at reduced rates to qualifying low-income customers.

A. General

1. A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to State Lifeline shall receive state reductions to their monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate.
2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for State Lifeline from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications service.
3. State Lifeline rate reductions apply only to basic network service and do not apply to non-basic services, regulated or non-regulated, such as long distance service or custom calling services. Customers may subscribe to these services, where available, at their discretion. If the customer subscribes to a bundled service, where available, the discount shall only apply to the basic network service portion of the bundled service.
4. State Lifeline rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges.
5. The Company may not disconnect the service of a State Lifeline customer for the non-payment of toll charges unless the Company has received a waiver from the Commission allowing disconnection of service for this reason.
6. Upon subscribing to State Lifeline, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.
7. The Company will waive number portability charges, subject to the tariff, for the Lifeline customer.
8. State Lifeline rate reductions will not be available on a retroactive basis except as directed by LIDA or the Commission.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

EFFECTIVE

Dec. 2, 2016 Tariff No. 46543

TARIFF CLERK

Effective: Upon Approval
Issued By: Alan Link
Title: Chief Executive Officer

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. STATE LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

2. Designated Lifeline Program Services

The Company shall offer the voice telephony services defined to be qualified, or designated, Lifeline Program service pursuant to 16 TAC § 26.412(e).

3. State Eligibility Requirement

a. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

State Lifeline rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 150% of the annual federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in, a program identified in 16 TAC § 26.412(d) regarding consumer qualifications for Lifeline.

b. Obligations of the Customer

- (1) A current customer of the Company may be automatically enrolled in State Lifeline by their participation in the qualifying programs or they may self-enroll by contacting the Texas Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).
- (2) A customer who is eligible for State Lifeline, but does not have telephone service at the time of application, shall be responsible for initiating a request for service from the Company.

c. The LIDA reviews the customer application received and determines if the customer meets the eligibility criteria. The LIDA shall provide a list of eligible customers to the Company on a monthly basis.

d. State Lifeline customers will lose their State Lifeline eligibility once they cease to meet income criteria or cease to participate in one of the qualified programs. Customers will be notified by the LIDA for loss of eligibility and an opportunity given to prove eligibility. Reduced billing under State Lifeline will be terminated if eligibility ceases.

Effective: Upon Approval
 Issued By: Alan Link
 Title: Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

EFFECTIVE

Dec. 2, 2016 Tariff No. 46543

TARIFF CLERK

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. STATE LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

4. Deposit and Credit Requirements

- a. The Company shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit in order to initiate State Lifeline if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.
- b. The Company may charge a service deposit if:
 - (1) The eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to State Lifeline.
 - (2) The Company receives a Commission waiver from having to provide toll blocking due to technical limitations.
- c. In instances where the Company may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company are also applicable to eligible customers of State Lifeline.

5. Service Connection and Charges

- a. Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to State Lifeline.
- b. Service connection charges do apply when:
 - (1) Existing eligible customers requesting additional non-qualifying services at the time Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated.
 - (2) New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for State Lifeline and establishing qualifying service.
 - (3) Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to State Lifeline.
- c. Applicable service connection charges for the Company are specified in Section 6 of this tariff.

Effective: Upon Approval
Issued By: Alan Link
Title: Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

EFFECTIVE

Dec. 2, 2016 Tariff No. 46543

TARIFF CLERK

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

IV. STATE LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

6. State Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

a. Implementation

The Company shall provide reduced billing for all State Lifeline eligible customers within its service area after receipt of the list of eligible customers from the LIDA. In instances where the customer makes direct inquiries regarding participation in State Lifeline to the Company, the Company shall make every effort to assist the customer by explaining the necessary steps to become eligible to participate in State Lifeline and direct the customer to the LIDA for completion of the required forms for eligibility certification.

If the eligible customer's existing telephone service arrangements meet State Lifeline criteria, the Company shall provide reduced billing as indicated above.

b. Amounts

The Company shall apply State Lifeline rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below

- (1) State Reduction. The Company shall give qualifying low-income consumers a state-approved reduction of up to a maximum of \$3.50 in the monthly amount of intrastate charges due in addition to the Area Discount described below.
- (2) Area Discount. The Lifeline Area Discount is \$0.50.
- (3) Combined Lifeline discounts. The Company shall apply the above discounts, however, the combined discounts shall not result in a rate of less than zero charged for the customer's basic local service.

Effective: Upon Approval
Issued By: Alan Link
Title: Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

EFFECTIVE

Dec. 2, 2016 Tariff No. 46543

TARIFF CLERK

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM

The federal Lifeline Program is a retail local service offering designed to make telephone and/or broadband service available at reduced rates to qualifying low-income customers.

1. General

- a. A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to designated federal Lifeline Program Services, as outlined below, is eligible to receive federal reductions to either his/her monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate and federal subscriber line charge or his/her monthly retail rate for an eligible broadband service. The qualifying low-income customer can only receive one federal discount on one service option.
- b. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the federal Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications service.
- c. The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges, except that customers eligible for the Tribal Link Up Program will receive a 100% reduction, up to \$100.00, on applicable service connection charges, as provided in Section 6 of this tariff.
- d. The Company may not disconnect the service of a federal Lifeline Program customer for the non-payment of toll charges unless the Company has received a waiver from the Commission allowing disconnection of service for this reason.
- e. Upon subscribing to the federal Lifeline Program, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.
- f. The Company will waive number portability charges, subject to the tariff, for the Lifeline customer.

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 Title: Chief Executive Officer

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Dec. 2, 2016 Tariff No. 46543

TARIFF CLERK

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

1. General (Continued)

- g. The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions will only be issued on a going-forward basis and will not be available on a retroactive basis except as directed by LIDA or the Commission.
- h. The federal Lifeline Program credit will be pro-rated on the basis of a 30-day month from the effective date of the customer's application.
- i. Partial payments made by Lifeline customers will be applied first toward charges for local service.

2. Designated Federal Lifeline Program Services

- a. The Company shall offer the voice telephony service and broadband service defined to be qualified, or designated, federal Lifeline Program service as enumerated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.101(a)(1) and (2) (relating to Supported Services for Rural, Insular and High Cost Areas).
- b. For voice service, the federal Lifeline Program rate reductions apply only to basic local exchange service and do not apply to non-basic services, regulated or non-regulated, such as long distance service or custom calling services. Customers may subscribe to these services, where available, at their discretion.
- c. For broadband service, the federal Lifeline Program rate reductions apply to the monthly recurring retail rate for eligible broadband service provisioned by the Company or its affiliated Internet Service Provider.
- d. All designated federal Lifeline Program services are subject to minimum service standards delineated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.408.

3. Eligibility Requirement

a. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer, limited to one discount per eligible household location. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 135% of the annual federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in, a program identified in 47 Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

3. Eligibility Requirement (Continued)

b. Obligations of the Customer

- (1) A current customer of the Company may be automatically enrolled in the federal Lifeline Program by their participation in the qualifying programs or they may self-enroll by contacting the Texas Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).
- (2) A customer who is eligible for the federal Lifeline Program, but does not subscribe to a designated federal Lifeline Program service at the time of application, shall be responsible for initiating a request for a designated federal Lifeline Program service from the Company before any federal Lifeline Program discounts will be administered.

c. The LIDA reviews the customer application received and determines if the customer meets the eligibility criteria for the federal Lifeline Program. The LIDA shall provide a list of eligible customers to the Company on a monthly basis.

d. Federal Lifeline Program customers will lose their federal Lifeline Program eligibility once they cease to meet income criteria or cease to participate in one of the qualified programs. Customers will be notified by the LIDA for loss of eligibility and an opportunity given to prove eligibility. Reduced billing under the federal Lifeline Program will be terminated if eligibility ceases.

4. Deposit and Credit Requirements

a. The Company shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit for Lifeline voice-only service plans in order to initiate the federal Lifeline Program if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.

b. The Company may charge a service deposit if:

- (1) The eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to the federal Lifeline Program.
- (2) The Company receives a waiver from having to provide toll blocking due to technical limitations.

c. In instances where the Company may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company are also applicable to eligible customers of the federal Lifeline Program.

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HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
General Exchange Tariff

SECTION 19
Original Sheet 14

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

5. Service Connection and Charges

- a. Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to the federal Lifeline Program.
- b. Service connection charges may apply when:
 - (1) Existing eligible customers request additional non-qualifying services at the time federal Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated, or anytime thereafter.
 - (2) New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the federal Lifeline Program first order a designated federal Lifeline Program service.
 - (3) Existing eligible customers request any subsequent moves or changes to their service after the initial connection to the federal Lifeline Program.
- c. In instances where service connection charges apply, customers qualifying for the federal Lifeline Program may qualify for the Tribal Link-Up Program and may be eligible to receive a reduction in the applicable service connection charges as provided in Section 6 of this tariff.
- d. Applicable service connection charges for the Company are specified in Section 6 of this tariff.

N

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Dec. 2, 2016 Tariff No. 46543

TARIFF CLERK

HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
General Exchange Tariff

SECTION 19
Original Sheet 15

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

6. Federal Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

The Company shall provide reduced billing for all federal Lifeline Program eligible customers within its service area after receipt of the list of eligible customers from the LIDA. In instances where the customer makes direct inquiries regarding participation in the Lifeline program to the Company, the Company shall make every effort to assist the customer by explaining the necessary steps to become eligible to participate in the Lifeline Program and direct the customer to the LIDA for completion of the required forms for eligibility certification.

- a. If the eligible customer's existing voice or broadband service arrangements meet the federal Lifeline Program criteria, the Company shall provide reduced billing as indicated above.
- b. If the eligible customer's existing voice or broadband service arrangements do not meet the federal Lifeline Program criteria, the Company shall:
 - (1) advise the eligible customer by direct mail of the impending termination of his or her Lifeline service; and
 - (2) allow a subscriber 30 days following the date of the impending termination letter required to demonstrate continued eligibility.
 - (3) If the eligible customer chooses to make the necessary changes to billing per the federal Lifeline Program at the time the change is effective or at the time new service is established.
- c. If the Company charges a federal End User Common Line Charge (a.k.a. Federal Subscriber Line Charge), the federal Lifeline Program support amount must be applied to waive the federal End User Common Line Charge for federal Lifeline Program subscribers.

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TARIFF CLERK

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

7. Federal Lifeline Program Support Amount

The Company shall apply federal Lifeline Program rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below.

- a. The Company shall grant federal support to qualifying low-income consumers up to \$9.25 per month, subject to the support amount directed by the Federal Communications Commission in 47 Code of Federal Regulations § 54.403 regarding Lifeline support amount.
- b. The federal Lifeline Program discounts shall not result in a rate of less than zero charged for the customer's qualifying voice or broadband service.
- c. Tribal Lands Support Amount (where applicable). Additional federal Lifeline support of up to \$25 per month will be made available to qualifying eligible residents of Tribal lands.

N

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Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Study Area Code: 442086

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Cooperative”) hereby certifies that throughout 2016, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, the Cooperative offers broadband service at the highest available speed.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY